

## Brucellosis Project Update April 2013

Seropositive elk have been monitored 2-5 times per week throughout the month of April. Monitoring flights have been conducted once per week for the seropositive elk and once per month for the seronegative elk. Most of the seropositive elk from winter ranges in the Sage Creek area have moved to the Centennial Valley, while most of the seropositive elk from the Blacktail area remain in the higher elevations of their winter range. A non-pregnant, seropositive elk originally collared in the Blacktail area in 2011 is now wintering on the Wall Creek Wildlife Management Area as well as private lands on the east side of the Madison Valley across from the WMA.

Torrey Ritter and pilot Trever Throop conducted an elk monitoring flight of all 40 radio-collared elk on April 18, 2013 (Figure 1 & 2). All 40 of the radio-collared elk were located during the flight and all collars were transmitting on live mode. Six out of 7 of the seropositive elk's vaginal implant transmitters (VITs) were transmitting on live mode indicating no evidence of abortion events. One seropositive elk's VIT failed to transmit sometime around April 8, and we presume the VIT has malfunctioned and we will be unable to detect an abortion or calving event in this animal. Several thorough searches of the last area where she was located and intensive monitoring of the elk have yielded no signals from the VIT. This elk will continue to be closely monitored through the rest of the calving season to see if the VIT comes back online, or if evidence of a live birth or abortion event can be detected.

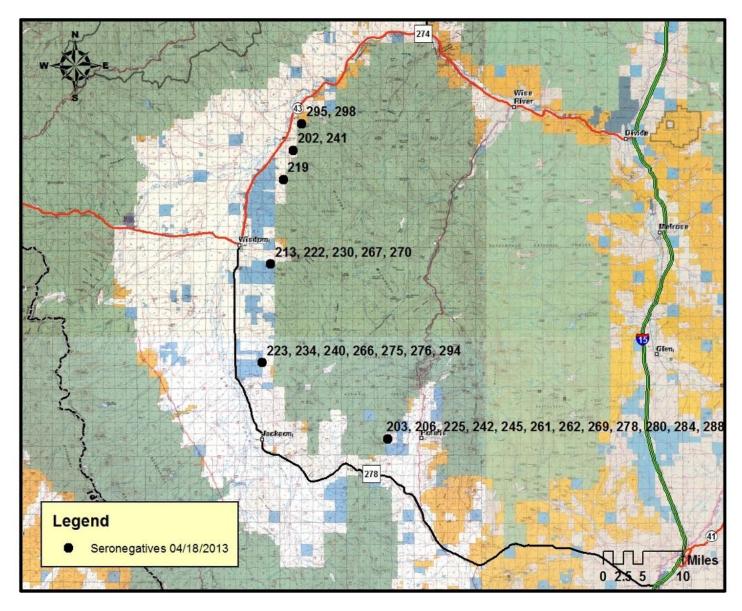


Figure 1. Seronegative elk locations from the April 18, 2013 monitoring flight.

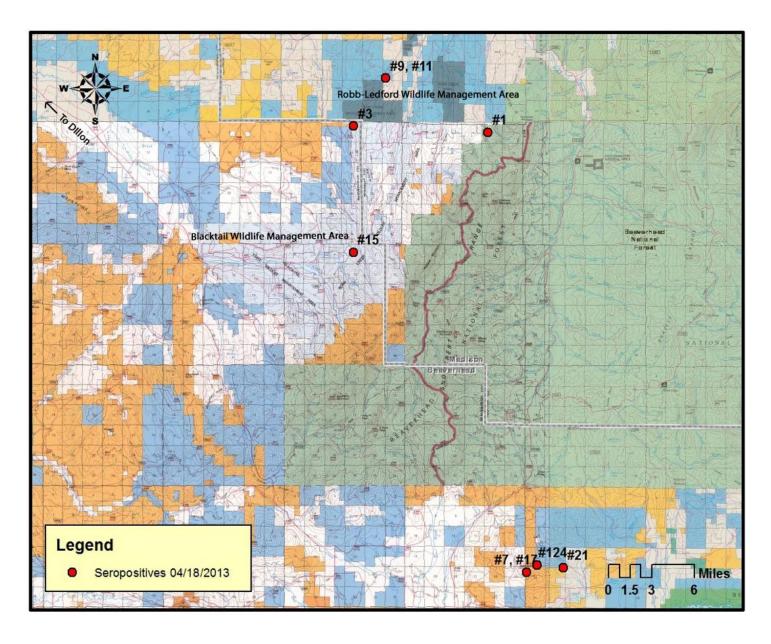


Figure 2. Seropositive elk locations from the April 18, 2013 monitoring flight.

Table 1. Forty elk are currently radiocollared in the brucellosis study area. Thirty elk were radiocollared in each of the past 3 years and all seropositive elk will remain collared for the duration of the study.

		First capture		Pregnancy status	
ID#	Capture Area	year	Serostatus	(2013)	Most recent location
1	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	E of Ledford Cr
3	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	SW of Timber Hill
7	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	SW of Timber Hill
9	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	SW of Timber Hill
11	Ruby	2011	Positive	Open	SW of Timber Hill
12	Ruby	2011	Positive	Open	East side 287
15	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	SW of Timber Hill
17	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Open	N of Red Rock River
21	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	N of Red Rock River
124	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	SE of Sage Creek
202	Pioneers	2013	Negative	_	Christiansen Cr
203	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Mill Point
206	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Mill Point
213	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
219	Pioneers	2013	Negative		McVey Creek
222	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
223	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Fox Gulch/ USFS
225	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Mill Point
230	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
234	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
240	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
241	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Goris Gulch/BLM
242	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Mill Point
245	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Taylor Creek
261	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Mill Point
262	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Taylor Creek
263	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Not Heard
266	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
267	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
269	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Mill Point
270	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
275	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
276	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
278	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Mill Point
280	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Fox Gulch/ USFS
284	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Taylor Creek
288	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Taylor Creek
294	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Clara Mine/ USFS
295	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Christiansen Cr
298	Pioneers	2013	Negative		Christiansen Cr